



bringing materials to *life*™

DAVID SIMMS

Land and planning director, Lafarge Cement

“These are exciting times for Lafarge in Medway. Over the last few years, the company has been returning to positive use the large areas of land it no longer requires in order to make cement.

Often land has been restored to provide areas of open space and nature conservation interest, such as at Holborough Marshes where 34 hectares of riverside land near the site of the former Holborough Cement Works, is part designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) for its flora value. At Cliffe quarry, a former 20 hectare chalk quarry is now also designated a SSSI site. At Halling, the opportunity was taken to open up physical access to the river and river views to both new residents and the public with the creation of a new promenade and public open space.

Surplus land has been used for innovative thinking and the delivery of high quality restoration, with new houses and new employment opportunities.

Examples include Medway Valley Park, a site of 15 hectares alongside the River Medway on land previously occupied by the former Martin Earle Cement Works. This is now a vibrant area of mixed leisure uses together with a riverside walkway. This is an example of Lafarge’s programme of opening up restored land to provide access to riverside locations for public enjoyment.

Lafarge’s and Medway Council’s plans for Temple Waterfront, outlined elsewhere in this publication, illustrate the on-going regeneration programme, with proposed community services include shops, services and public transport. Access along the site’s half mile waterfront will be greatly improved through investment in paths and open space management.

Cement production remains at the core of our business and Lafarge’s planned new cement Works in Medway will bring prosperity to the area. The planned Works, at Holborough, will invest millions of pounds into Medway, creating both direct and indirect local employment opportunities as well as providing a state of the art world class manufacturing facility at the heart of Medway.”